

House Republican Press Release

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Gov. Rell, Rep. Bacchiochi: STEAP Grants Totaling \$225,000 Okayed for Somers Projects



The State Bond Commission today approved grants totaling \$225,000 that will enable Somers to make improvements to Main Street, Governor M. Jodi Rell and state Representative Penny Bacchiochi, R-52nd District, announced today.

The funding is provided through the state's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP). The Bond Commission approved the funding at its meeting today.

"We want to do all we can to make Main Street an area that is as safe and vibrant as it can possibly be," Governor Rell said. "This design, and the ultimate completion of this project, will improve safety on Main Street for both vehicles and pedestrians. A safe Main Street is good for local business, and that can spur local job growth. The Village has so many unique characteristics, and we want to preserve and enhance those features while improving the quality of life throughout the town."

The first project will provide Somers with \$200,000 for the installation of sidewalks on the north side of Main Street in Somersville. The sidewalks will increase pedestrian access and safety in the mixed residential and commercial area. "The installation of new sidewalks will improve the overall appearance of the Somersville neighborhood and enhance safety conditions for pedestrians," Representative Bacchiochi said. "The new sidewalks this grant will finance will enhance property values and improve the quality of life in Somersville. As we try to revitalize the Somersville Mill area, the sidewalks and streetscape plan will make an immediate and noticeable difference."

The second project will provide Somers with \$25,000 for the design of streetscape improvements for Main Street in Somersville. The design of the streetscape project will prepare cost estimates and assess how the improvements will be phased in. "This grant will set the stage for streetscape improvements that will enhance the overall appearance of Main Street and accentuate its traditional New England ambience. The project will attract more visitors and shoppers to our town and strengthen the local economy. The project is critical to the future of our community and I'd like to thank Governor Rell for supporting it," Representative Bacchiochi said.